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KERRIA JAPONICA PLANT NAMED 'FUBUKI NISHIKI'

5 CLASSIFICATION

The present invention relates to a new *Kerria japonica* (L.) DC [*Corchorus japonicus* Thunb.] plant.

VARIETY DENOMINATION

10 The new plant has the varietal denomination 'FUBUKI NISHIKI'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety
15 of *Kerria japonica* (L.) DC [*Corchorus japonicus* Thunb.], which was discovered as a branch sport in a cultivated area of a controlled planting of from the species *Kerria japonica* (unnamed, unpatented) in Kawaguchi City, Saitama Prefecture, Japan. The varietal denomination of the new variety is 'FUBUKI
20 NISHIKI'.

The genus *Kerria* is included in the family *Rosaceae*, which comprises about 100 genera and 2,000 species of herbs, shrubs and trees native mostly to China and Japan. *Kerria* comprises one species, *Kerria japonica* (L.) DC, native to the temperate
25 regions of eastern Asia, which possesses desirable ornamental characteristics.

Kerria japonica is a deciduous shrub with green leaves and glabrous branches. Leaves of the typical species are alternate, oval, long acuminate, serrated on the margins with pinnate
30 venation. It generally has yellow flowers.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The new variety was discovered as a branch sport and differs from its parent by white flecked variegated foliage,
35 white and greyed-green striped flowers and slightly larger leaf

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size. Asexual reproduction of the new variety by vegetative
cuttings, performed in Lewisberry, Pennsylvania and Vacaville,
5 California have confirmed that the distinctive characteristics
of the new variety are stable and transmitted to succeeding
generations, and the new variety reproduces true to type.

COMPARISON WITH PARENTS

10 'FUBUKI NISHIKI' is distinguished from its parent and all
other varieties of *Kerria japonica* of which I am aware by its
white flecked variegated foliage, white and greyed-green striped
flowers and slightly larger leaf size. The parent plant has
completely green foliage and yellow flowers.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ILLUSTRATIONS

5 The accompanying illustrations show a specimen of the new
cultivar in a photo illustration as true to color as is
reasonably possible to make in an illustration of this
character.

FIG. 1 illustrates the distinctive variegated foliage of
'FUBUKI NISHIKI'; and

10 FIG. 2 illustrates the flower of 'FUBUKI NISHIKI'.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

5 'FUBUKI NISHIKI' has not been observed under all possible environmental, cultural and light conditions. The following observations and descriptions are of plants grown in Vacaville, California and Lewisberry, Pennsylvania. In this description, color references are to *The Royal Horticultural Society Colour*
10 *Chart* (1995) and terminology used in the color descriptions herein refers to plate numbers in this color chart. Phenotypic expression may vary with light intensity, cultural and environmental conditions.

15 CLASSIFICATION

Botanical: *Kerria japonica* (L.) DC.
[*Corchorus japonicus* Thunb.]

Parentage: Branch sport from the species

20 Propagation: Stem cuttings

PLANT

Size: About 2 m tall; about 3 m across

Habit: Upright; multi-branched shrub
25 when young, with an increasingly spreading and pendulous habit in its second year of growth

Branching

Lateral Branches: Numerous, obliquely upright
30 becoming pendant with age

Typical Number

Branches: 10 to 20

Observed Number

Branches: 19

35 Size

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Length: About 1 m long

5 Diameter: About 5 to 6 mm at base

Color: Near 139C

New Shoots: Near 139C

LEAF

10 Shape: Ovate to oblong; leaf tip long;
acuminate occasionally hooked;
leaf base mostly cuneate to
obtuse and occasionally cordate
or truncate

15 Size: About 5 to 10 cm long and 2.5 to
5 cm wide. (Parent plant has
typical leaf size of 3 to 7 cm
long and 2 to 3.5 cm wide.)

Arrangement: Alternate

20 Margin: Coarsely and irregularly doubly
serrate

Texture/Substance: Thin, chartaceous

Upper Surface: Glabrous with impressed veins,
nearly bullate

25 Under Side: Glabrous to slightly pubescent
with prominent veins

VARIEGATION PATTERN

30 Flecked, splashed, and mottled in a random pattern. Areas
of variegation are frequently long and narrow, parallel to the
side veins of the leaf. There are additional smaller areas of
variegation that show no consistent shape and are randomly
distributed across the leaf. The variegation typically covers
25% to 50% of the leaf surface. Although the pattern of
35 variegation is random, every leaf displays noticeable patterns

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of variegation. Foliage holds the initial variegation from emergence through the growing season.

5 Young Foliage

Green Sections

Upper Side: Near 143A

Under Side: Near 143B

10 Variegated Sections

Upper Side: Between 196C and 196D, and near 155B

Under Side: Near 196D

Mature Foliage

15 Green Sections

Upper Side: Near 143A

Under Side: Near 143B

Variegated Sections

20 Upper Side: Between 196C and 196D, and near 155B

Under Side: Near 196D

Venation Pattern: Alternately pinnate depressed above, raised beneath

25 Petiole

Size: Between about 0.5 to 1.5 cm

Coloration: Near 143A

Texture: Smooth

30 Internodes: Between about 1 to 8 cm

Hardiness: USDA Zone 5 (20°F to -10°F)

Vigor: Rapid growth rate

Pests/Diseases: No pest or disease problems noted

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INFLORESCENCE

5 Bloom Period
 Outdoors: March to May
 Greenhouse: Not observed in greenhouse
 conditions
 Flower: Rotate
10 Arrangement: Solitary, terminal on lateral
 branchlets
 Size: About 3.5 cm wide
 Shape of Inflorescence: Solitary, terminal on lateral
 branchlets
15 Fragrance: None noted
 Lastingness of
 individual blooms: Between 3 to 5 days
 Flower Petals
20 Typical Number: About 5
 Observed Number: About 5
 Shape: Ovate
 Apex: Retuse occasionally apiculate
 Base: Abruptly attenuate
25 Size: About 16 mm long; about 7 mm
 wide
 Margin: Entire and smooth, often
 undulate
30 Curvature: Slightly inwardly cupped
 Arrangement: Rotate
 Color
 Background color: Near 145B

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5 Variegated
 section:
 Between 196C to 196D, with
 occasional yellow near 11B;
 occasional random markings or
 stripes parallel to the long
 axis of the petal, occasional
 marginal variegation

10 Sepals
 Shape:
 Color
 Pointed

 Background
 color:
15 Variegation
 color:
 Near 194A
 Near 155B

REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS

 Androecium
20 Stamens:
 Anther
 Between about 30-40

 Shape:
 Color:
 Club shaped
 Near 11B
25 Pollen amount:
 Color:
 Voluminous
 Near 11B

 Gynoecium
 Pistil count:
 Length:
 About 5
 About 2 mm

30 Stigma Color:
 Style Color:
 Near 11B
 Near 11B

 Ovary Color:
35 Fruit Type:
 Near 11B
 Achene

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I CLAIM:

5 A new plant variety of *Kerria japonica* of the variety
substantially as shown and described.

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ABSTRACT

5 A new plant variety of *Kerria japonica* characterized by
white flecked variegated foliage, white and greyed-green striped
flowers and slightly larger leaf size.

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VGG/11b

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